

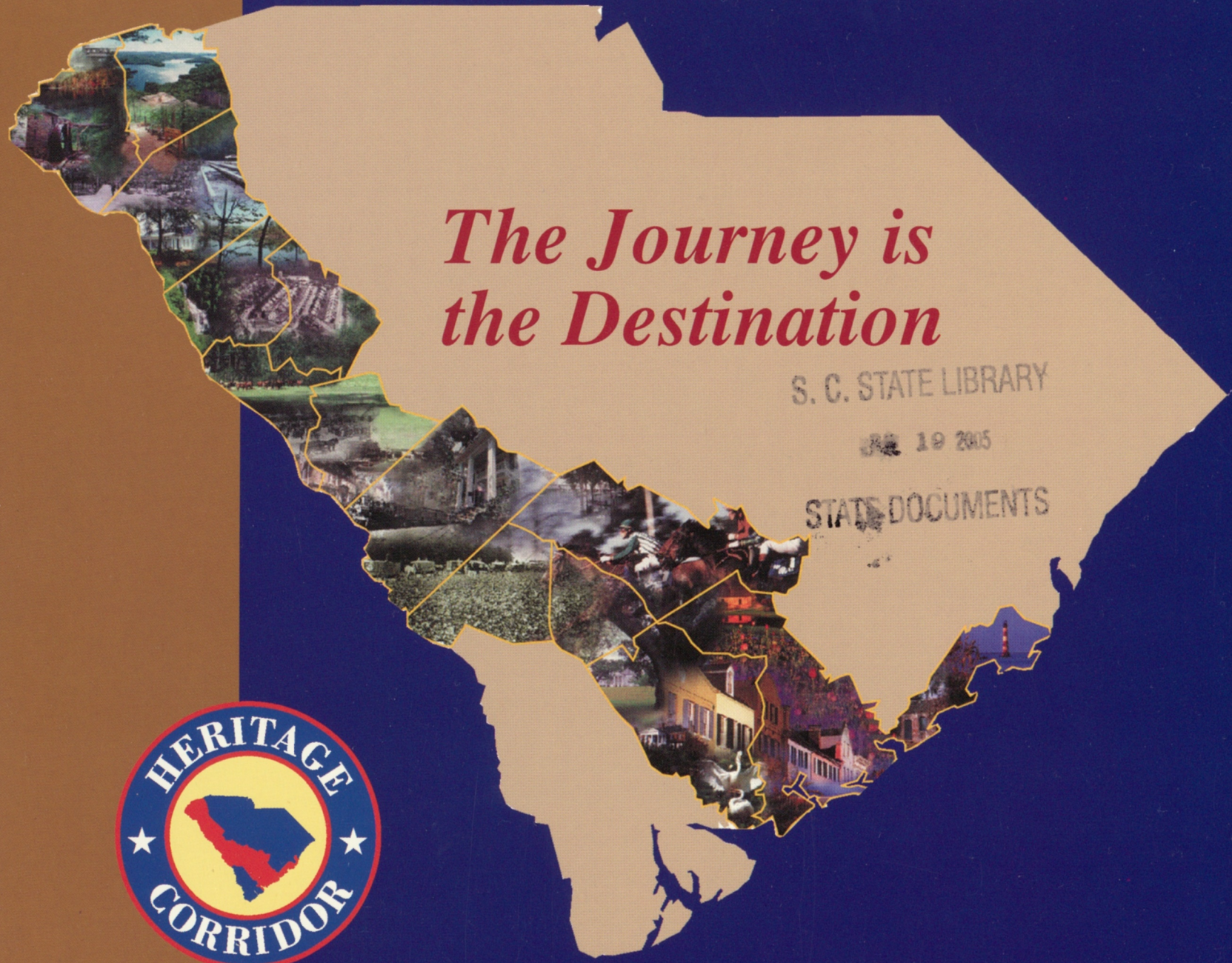
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The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor

A Story of People & Places

*The Journey is
the Destination*

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The SCNHC is a public-private grassroots initiative being developed to promote sustainable economic development through heritage tourism in the rural areas of western South Carolina. As the only program of its kind in the state, the Corridor serves as a catalyst for development by providing needed technical assistance and grant money to local communities. Development of educational programming and cultural events adds to the quality of life in the 14 counties and complements the major marketing efforts of the Corridor to attract both in-state and out-of-state visitors. Marketing and Visitor Services are being implemented through the Corridor Discovery System.

Extending 240 miles across South Carolina, from the mountains of Oconee to the port City of Charleston, the 14 counties of the Corridor offer a cross-section of the state's history, culture and natural landscapes. The area describes the evolution of upcountry and lowcountry life, from grand plantations and simple farms to mill villages and urban centers, and how their history affected SC as a state and America as a nation.



The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor is one of only 25 federally designated heritage areas in the country. In addition to enhancing local pride, designation as a National Heritage Area comes with technical and financial assistance from the National Park Service. Federal financial assistance provides valuable "seed" money to cover basic expenses such as staffing, and leverages other money from state, local, and private resources to assist with local community development initiatives.

DISCOVERY SYSTEM

The comprehensive interpretation making up the Corridor Discovery System includes Discovery Centers and over 125 Discovery Sites. The Centers serve as gateways to the regions by providing in-depth Interpretation and visitor information. Discovery Sites are attractions in the communities that provide site specific interpretation as well as information on surrounding attractions. Educational programming and special events add another component to the system to encourage exploration and discovery of SC's history, culture, and natural wonders.



The Region Two Discovery Center in Edgefield, SC, is one of the Centers located in the Heritage Corridor.



Interpretation placed throughout the Corridor weaves together the story of South Carolina's settlement from the coast to the mountains.

Heritage tourism development not only provides an organized effort for the preservation and promotion of our natural, cultural and historical resources, but also provides a unique opportunity for the education of these resources through hands-on, experienced-based learning. The SCNHC Discovery System is a guide for visitors to explore, experience, and discover the rural communities and historic backroads of South Carolina.



Economic Development:
The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor works to preserve the resources of our communities and develops them in a way to improve the quality of life for local residents and stimulate local economic development.



Partnerships:
The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor unites neighboring communities and creates partnerships at the federal, state and local level to assist with development and tourism efforts.



Heritage Tourism is the fastest growing segment of the United States' Travel Industry and the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor is working to bring the benefits of the heritage area program to our state.

Technical assistance, leveraged resources, interpretative and educational programs, and large-scale visitor services make up our unique rural tourism program.

